

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

July 11, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: Larry Perosino - 860/509-6259

SMALL & MINORITY BUSINESS SHOWCASE Learn to start or expand your business

The office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz presents its eighth Connecticut Small & Minority Business Showcase on Saturday, August 16, at the Learning Corridor in Hartford. "Minding Your Business – Protecting Your Assets" serves as the theme for the all-day expo, which is designed to help business owners and others network, learn about financing options, exporting, e-commerce and other opportunities. Saturday's Showcase will be preceded by a procurement seminar on Friday, August 15 designed to help businesses learn how and where to apply for government contracts.

"Business development must be encouraged through events such as our Small & Minority Business Showcase and Procurement Seminars as a way to help foster long term economic growth," said Bysiewicz, whose office registers companies doing business in Connecticut. "It is a great forum for taking advantage of both government and private small business assistance programs, as well as developing new markets through exporting and the Internet."

Lending institutions, along with state and federal agencies, will be on hand with information on starting or expanding a business. In addition, over 100 businesses will be exhibiting their locally produced goods and services. Travelers Foundation is the lead sponsor of the 2003 Hartford Showcase.

Bysiewicz first launched the Secretary of the State's Small & Minority Business Showcase program at the West Indian American Center in Hartford three years ago. Showcases have since been held in New Haven, Bridgeport, New Britain and New London. "The strong interest we have had in our Business Showcases shows that there is significant confidence in the future of Connecticut's economy," Bysiewicz said.

For more information on the Small & Minority Business Showcase, Procurement Opportunities Seminar or other business development programs sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of the State (www.sots.state.ct.us), call Harland Henry at (860) 509-6258 or email Harland.henry@po.state.ct.us

#